

## EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS

The Kentucky Board of Nursing in Advisory Statement: AOS #87-15 Supervision and Delegation, p.4 footnote 2 states: “For intervention in life-threatening situation, a registered nurse may teach and delegate to non-nurse school employees the preparation and administration of injectable glucagons, epinephrine hydrochloride (using an administration system such as “Epi-Pen”) and diazepam suppository. The medications should be given according to written established policies and procedures of the school system.”<sup>(14)</sup>

Students and faculty/staff in Kentucky schools may have or may develop life-threatening allergies when exposed to allergens, so schools and districts must be prepared to administer emergency medications to prevent the development of anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction). Allergic reactions may range from mild to severe (anaphylaxis). Anaphylaxis refers to signs and symptoms that occur as a severe reaction to allergies. These symptoms may include: difficulty breathing and/or swallowing and a tightening or closing of the throat.

The most common allergies are related to: honey bee, wasp, yellow jacket, and hornet stings; legumes (i.e. beans, peas or peanuts); and latex or chemical irritants. Students with Spinal Bifida should be considered at high risk of having latex allergy.<sup>(4)</sup> Children with asthma or other chronic respiratory disorders are at a higher risk of developing anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis requires prompt medical intervention with an injection of epinephrine (Epi-pen), followed by transport to the nearest emergency room.

### Emergency Injectable Epinephrine (Epi Pens)

- Identify students at risk for anaphylaxis and allergic reaction. Once a student with potential life-threatening allergies is identified, school personnel must obtain a Physician’s Authorization Form on file. This form is only valid for the current school year and must be renewed annually. Each school is responsible to develop and implement an emergency procedures plan.<sup>(1)</sup> Chapter 8 of this manual, Emergency Health Services, will discuss emergency health services in more detail. The following is a guideline in developing a school policy/procedure for the use of injectable epinephrine in the school setting.
- Have emergency epinephrine (EpiPens) available. Kits should be available on school grounds and in designated areas, including field trips, in order to increase access by staff to the medication in an emergency situation. All school personnel should be aware of their location and trained in how to use them. Note: Some students may be authorized by their healthcare provider to carry and self-administer epinephrine, but school personnel should be aware that the nature of the severe allergic reaction may incapacitate the affected student. Therefore, staff must be prepared to administer the epinephrine. See KRS 158.832 to KRS 158.836 for 2004 changes in self-administration laws for students at risk for anaphylaxis.
- Expiration dates on emergency epinephrine kits should be checked regularly. Epinephrine is available by prescription only.
- Administer emergency epinephrine (EpiPen) according to product insert instructions ([Exhibit 6F](#))
- Call 911 (or local emergency response team) immediately. \*\* Paramedics should always be called if EpiPen is given \*\* The effect of an EpiPen injection only lasts 20-30 minutes.
- Contact parents or emergency contact person.
- Transport affected and treated student to emergency services as soon as possible. A Registered Nurse or EMS personnel experienced and/or trained in how to handle allergic or anaphylactic emergencies should accompany the student to emergency services, as additional treatment with epinephrine is occasionally necessary.<sup>(4)</sup>

### Glucagon

Glucagon is used to raise the blood sugar when a child is unable to take liquid or food by mouth because of severe sleepiness, unconsciousness, or seizure activity due to low blood sugar levels. Glucagon must be injected with a syringe into the skin, like insulin.

Use of glucagons should be part of a child’s emergency action health care plan and be supplied (glucagons kit) to the school by the family with accompanying physician order. Glucagon may be stored at room temperature (under

90 degrees) and stored in an area where all school personnel will be able to locate and access it.

The glucagon syringe is marked with only 2 dosages 0.5 mg and 1.0 mg. The recommended dose of glucagons to inject is:

- 0.5 mg for a child 50 pounds or under
- mg for a child over 50 pounds<sup>(17)</sup>

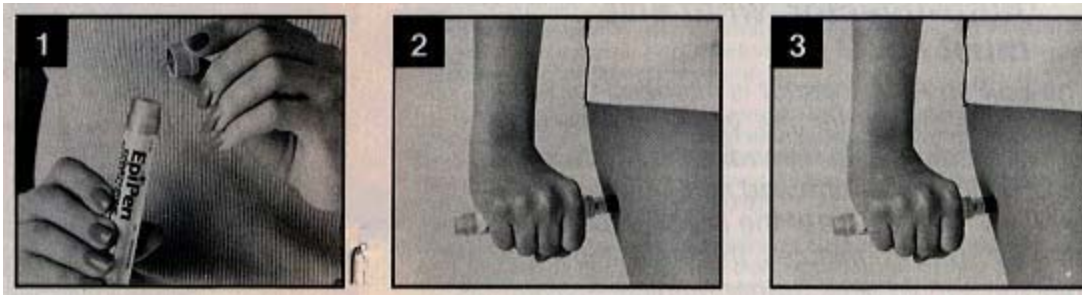
Directions for preparation of Glucagon may be found in [Exhibit 6G](#).<sup>(16)</sup>

### **Diastat Administration**

Diastat is a formulation of diazepam specifically designed for rectal administration to control prolonged seizures and bouts of increased seizure activity (clusters). The medication is available by prescription only and requires a physician's authorization for administration. Guidelines for Diastat Administration may be found on [Exhibit 6H](#).<sup>(6)</sup>

## HOW TO USE EPIPEN ® AND EPIPEN JR. ®

1. Pull of gray activations cap.
2. Hold black tip near outer thigh (always apply to thigh).
3. Swing and jab firmly into outer thigh until Auto-Injector mechanism functions. Hold in place and count to 10. The EpiPen ® unit should then be removed and discarded. Massage the injection area for 10 seconds.



# Diabetes Emergency Response

## Administration

CALL 911

### Glucagon Injection

- Use only when child is unconscious or having a seizure.
- Keep in a convenient, known place. Store in refrigerator during hot weather. Protect from freezing.
- Keep a 3cc syringe available or use the fluid filled syringe in the Lilly Emergency Kit.
- If you have the emergency kit, skip steps 1 and 2 below.



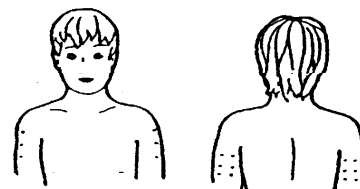
Insert 1/2 cc of air into fluid bottle (1cc won't fit).



Draw out 1 cc of fluid from bottle.

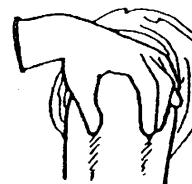


Inject the 1cc of fluid into bottle with tablet. Mix.



Remove cap from syringe.

Grasp cleansed area of arm between thumb and forefinger with your nondominant hand, but do not squeeze skin/tissue.



Hold syringe between thumb and forefinger.



- Inject either deep into muscle (in front of leg or upper, outer arm) or into the subcutaneous fat (just as you would an insulin shot).
- Give sips of juice, sugar pop, or sugar in water initially as soon as he/she awakens. Honey may help to raise the blood sugar. After 10 minutes, encourage solid food (crackers and peanut butter or cheese sandwich, etc.)
- Notify diabetes care team of severe reaction prior to next insulin injection (so dose can be changed if needed). Complete recovery may take 1-2 hours.

# GLUCAGON TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

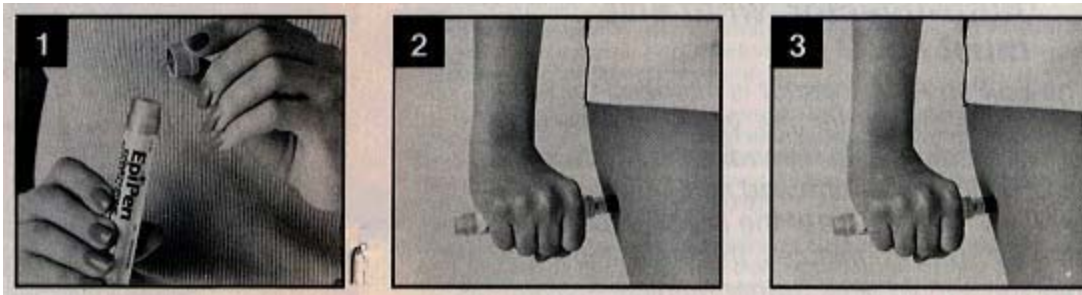
1. Written materials provided
2. Written materials discussed
3. Procedure demonstration
4. Return demonstration given
5. Opportunity for questions and answers

I attended the GLUCAGON training program on and the above items were included in that program.

<u>Name of Participant</u>	<u>Date</u>
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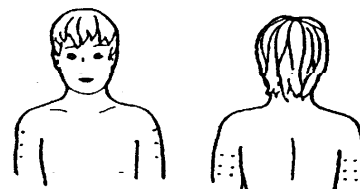
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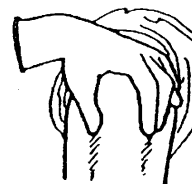


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# How to Administer

**Diastat<sup>®</sup>**  
(diazepam rectal gel)



Stop the seizure. Fast.



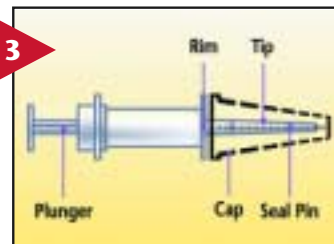
1

Put person on their side where they can't fall



2

Get medicine



3

Get syringe



4

Push up with thumb and pull to remove protective cover from syringe



5

Lubricate rectal tip with lubricating jelly



6

Turn person on side facing you



7

Bend upper leg forward to expose rectum



8

Separate buttocks to expose rectum



9

Gently insert syringe tip into rectum

*Note: Rim should be snug against rectal opening.*

**SLOWLY COUNT OUT LOUD TO THREE...1...2...3**



10

Slowly count to 3 while gently pushing plunger in until it stops



11

Slowly count to 3 before removing syringe from rectum



12

Slowly count to 3 while holding buttocks together to prevent leakage

**ONCE DIASTAT<sup>®</sup> IS GIVEN**



13

Keep person on side facing you, note time given and continue to observe



**CALL FOR HELP IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR**



- Seizure(s) continues 15 minutes after giving DIASTAT or per the doctor's instructions: \_\_\_\_\_
- Seizure behavior is different from other episodes.
- You are alarmed by the frequency or severity of the seizure(s).
- You are alarmed by the color or breathing of the person.
- The person is having unusual or serious problems.

**Local Emergency Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor's Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(please be sure to note if your area has 911)*

**Information for Emergency Squad:** Time DIASTAT given: \_\_\_\_\_ Dose: \_\_\_\_\_